

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22 and 23 are amended. Claims 14, 21 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice.

2. Claims 1, 8, 15 22 and 23 are amended to recite that the at least two remote mailboxes are located in at least two e-mail servers. The examiner has previously noted that such a change would place the claims in an allowable condition.

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-15 and 17-24 are not unpatentable over Picard in view of the Official Notice under 35 U.S.c. §103(a).

Picard in view of the Official Notice does not disclose or suggest that the at least two remote mailboxes are located in at least two email servers.

Claim 1 also recites that the first and second PDP connections are simultaneously maintained. This is also not disclosed. The Examiner refers to Col. 5, lines 13-21. What this section states is that a "simple DTI approach is to use separate TCP/IP connections 62 and 64 to each MS 66 and 68 on a single dialup point-to-point protocol". The Examiner equates this to "creating browsing instances". What this means however is that you have separate windows utilizing the same connection. Col. 2, lines 26-33 discloses a "simultaneous different connection into the mailbox". Col. 13, lines 11-39 discloses the general handling of a virtual IMS subscriber. The subscriber logs into the VMS 68. The VMS 68 will establish a POP session between the VMS 68 and EMS(s) 66. This setup is clearly illustrated with respect to FIG. 3.

There is no disclosure in Picard related to a connection to two EMS systems. In the system of Picard the EMS is not independent from the VMS system, as is illustrated in FIG. 3. In one embodiment the EMS 66 is controlled by the VMS 68. (See e.g. Col. 12, lines 11-28). Here it is stated that the "EMS can initiate SMTP sessions, but the VMS must initiate POP sessions. The EMS is configured to automatically create a copy of each message deposited, or an additional message with inventory information, give the message a special VMS recipient address, and send it via SMTP to the VMS (IMS 106)."

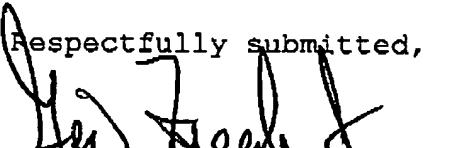
FIG. 2 shows a separate director, which handles the messages between the PC and the mailboxes.

It is respectfully submitted that Picard in view of the Official Notice does not disclose or suggest a first connection and a second connection, and that these connections are simultaneously maintained, as claimed by Applicant.

Thus, claims 1, 3-6, 8-15 and 17-24 should be allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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